

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT : MID-YEAR REVIEW (02.00)

1. SUMMARY: EPA ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS COSTLE VISITED THE USSR JULY 9-16 FOR MID-YEAR REVIEW OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. COSTLE DISCUSSED AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SEVERAL AREAS, BETTER ACCESS FOR US PARTICIPANTS, A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ALL PROJECTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES BEFORE NOVEMBER JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, AND A FORMAL AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION. BOTH US AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AGREED REVIEW WAS USEFUL. SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LECTURED ACCOMPANYING FSO'S ON DANGERS OF PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE. END SUMMARY

2. EPA ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS M COSTLE VISITED THE USSR JULY 9-16 FOR MID-YEAR REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT
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ACTIVITIES. SOVIETS RECEIVED COSTLE DELEGATION WITH TYPICAL GOOD HOSPITALITY AND ALSO PROVIDED IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION BY HYDROMET IL-18 AIRCRAFT. DURING MOSCOW PORTION OF VISIT. HYDROMET PROVIDED BRIEFINGS ON ALL 41 COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. HYDROMET ARRANGED VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY AT THE LIKHACHEV (ZIL) TRUCK PLANT AND TO THE MHD FACILITY AT THE INSTITUTE OF HIGH TEMPERATURES, WHICH RECENTLY

RECEIVED A 40-TON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGNET FROM THE US. IN TBILISI, COSTLE MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GEORGIAN STATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, V YA KACHARAVA, AND VISITED THE TRANSCAUCASUS HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. COSTLE ALSO CALLED ON THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE GEORGIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, Z V GELDIASHVILI. IN SOCHI, COSTLE VISITED THE CAUCASUS PRESERVE AND IN LENINGRAD HE CALLED ON I A NOSIKOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE LENINGRAD MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

3. DURING MID-YEAR REVIEW, COSTLE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS FOR THE DETECTION AND REGULATION OF IONIZING AND NONIONIZING RADIATION AND ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES. IZRAEL' IN TURN PROPOSED THE ACTIVIZATION OF COOPERATION IN AREA 12, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. THEY AGREED TO PREPARE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE FORTHCOMING JCM.

4. NOTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION HAS BENEFITTED BOTH SIDES, COSTLE ASSERTED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO UNDERTAKE A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT. HE PROPOSED THAT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES MEET PRIOR TO THE NEXT JCM TO ASSESS THE MERITS OF EACH PROJECT AND TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW AT THE JCM AS A FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS. AS THE NEXT STEP, HE CALLED FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AND TO IMPLEMENT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSALS AGREED UPON BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES. HE ALSO PROPOSED THE FORMULATION BY THE JCM OF A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS. FINALLY, COSTLE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT US PARTICIPANTS HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO SOVIET SCIENTISTS, LABORATORIES, FACILITIES AND INSTRUMENTATION. THE SUCCESS OF US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION, HE POINTED OUT, WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVIET SIDE IS MORE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING INCREASED ACCESS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT A LATE NOVEMBER JCM WOULD BE CONVENIENT. US SIDE, AS HOST, WILL PROPOSE A SPECIFIC DATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. IZRAEL' RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO COSTLE'S GENERAL COMMENTS ON MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT, COMMUNICATIONS, AND ACCESS. SPEAKING GENERALLY, IZRAEL' AGREED THAT THOROUGH REVIEW WOULD BE USEFUL AND HE ENDORSED AN EARLY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES. HE AGREED ALSO TO CONSIDER MEANS OF IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTS BETWEEN SCIENTISTS.

6. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE REVIEW HAD BEEN USEFUL. IZRAEL' COMMENTED THAT THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN QUOTE VERY IMPORTANT FOR US

FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW UNQUOTE. K G FEDOSEYEV, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE USA DEPARTMENT OF MFA, EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS PRIVATELY TO ACCOMPANYING EMBOFF FOLLOWING COSTLE DEPARTURE ON JULY 16. FEDOSEYEV STATED THEN THAT THE QUOTE ENVORONMENT IS AN AREA IN WHICH BOTH SIDES COULD STILL EASILY COOPERATE AND FROM WHICH EVERYONE BENEFITS UNQUOTE.

7. KAZAKOV, SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, APPARENTLY ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, LECTURED IN AN EMPHATIC AND ALMOST HOSTILE MANNER TO BOTH FSO'S ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION ON THE DANGERS OF QUOTE PRESIDENT'S CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USSR UNQUOTE. KASAKOV, WHO IS RELAXED AND GENIAL IN HIS CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS, APPEARED RELIEVED TO END THIS DISCUSSION, WHICH HE HAD INITIATED. HIS SUBSEQUENT BEHAVIOR WAS TYPICALLY FRIENDLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATIVE. THE SOVIETS DID NOT RAISE SIMILAR POLITICAL QUESTIONS WITH COSTLE.

8. COMMENT: (Q) TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, KOZAKOV'S ACTION REPRESENTS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF SOVIET INTRODUCTION OF THIS POLITICAL TOPIC INTO DISCUSSIONS ON THE BILATERAL COOPERATIVE SCIENCE AGREEMENTS. (2) THOUGH SOVIETS ANSWERED POSITIVELY TO POINTS MADE BY COSTLE, THE TRUE TEST OF SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND CONCRETELY WILL COME AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE.
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